



Your business
is our business.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 26, 2017

Via Hand Delivery

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2017 ETC Annual Report of Sandhill Telephone Cooperative
Study Area Code 240546**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Sandhill Telephone Cooperative (“Company”), JSI files the attached confidential version of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission’s rules.¹ Company seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.² The redacted version is being filed this date via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System.

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

² *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, Protective Order, DA 16-296 rel. March 22, 2016 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting
Data Collection Form****REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

(300) Unfulfilled Service Request Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)

0

<310> Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

0

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document

(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
--	--

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	Offered only fixed voice 0 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize.	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	Offered only fixed broadband 0 . 0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
240546SC510 .pdf		
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards	

(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations Data Collection Form	REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	---------------------------------------	--

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	240546SC610 .pdf

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

[illegible]

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

[illegible]

(900) Tribal Lands Reporting Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
--	--

<010> Study Area Code	240546
<015> Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2018
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

<900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) No

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification

Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance

Name of Attached Document

**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers
Lifeline
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

240546SC1210.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, ☒
- <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, ☒
- <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. ☒

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

<p><2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR §54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 2017 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support.</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<p><2022> Recipient certifies, representing year three after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<p><2023> The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<p><2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 200px; height: 60px;" type="text"/>
<p><2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.</p>	<p>Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information</p>	<input style="width: 200px; height: 60px;" type="text"/>
<p><2025A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	
<p><2025B> Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 2 for year three) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-73, paragraph 35 (May 22, 2013).</p>	<p>Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information</p>	<input style="width: 200px; height: 60px;" type="text"/>
<p><2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)</p>	<input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	

(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

Data Collection Form

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017C> Total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2016.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(A)

Name of Attached Document Listing
Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(C)

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

Select from the drop down menu or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)		
		Yes - Attach Certification	
(3010A)	Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}		
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	240546sc3010.pdf
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}	No - No New Community Anchors	
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:			
(3015)	Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			
(3019)	Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	240546sc3026.pdf

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

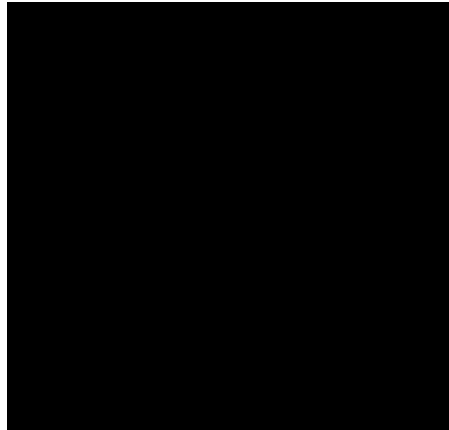
(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends



(4005) Rural Broadband Experiment Additional Documentation Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
--	---

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
--	--	--

Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
---	--	--

4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
---	--	--

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	240546
<015> Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020> Program Year	2018
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>John Staurulakis, Inc.</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Name of Reporting Carrier:	SANDHILL TEL COOP
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/23/2017
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Christopher Chambers
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	CEO/General Manager
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	8436586379 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	240546 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	SANDHILL TEL COOP
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/23/2017
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	Lans Chase
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	Staff Director - Regulatory
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	7705692015 ext.1
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	240546 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

Attachments

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.’s demonstration of complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules for voice and broadband services:

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,¹ the FCC found that an ETC must make “a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers.”² The FCC found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA’s Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.³ In this context, the FCC stated, “to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement.”⁴

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Sandhill”) hereby certifies that it is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Sandhill is subject to consumer protection obligations under both federal and South Carolina state law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina which disclose rates, and terms and conditions of service to customers (Section 103-612.2.1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); (2) adherence to state consumer protection requirements governing telephone providers which

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) (“*2005 ETC Order*”).

² *Id.* at para. 28.

³ *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: “(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy.” *Id.* at n. 71.

⁴ *Id.* at n. 72.

govern Standards and Quality of Service (Sections 103-661, 103-662, and 103-663 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Customer Relations, including billing, deposits, discontinuance and termination of service (Sections 103-620 through 103-633 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Engineering and Safety Standards (Sections 103-640 through 103-646 and 103-670 through 103-672 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Inspections and Tests (Sections 103-650 through 103-653 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Records and Reports (Sections 103-610 through 103-619 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations) and Customer Complaints (Section 103-628 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); (3) truth-in-billing requirements (Section 103-622.1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); and (4) CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

Sandhill is subject to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in 47 CFR § 8.3. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the *2015 Open Internet Order*.

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative’s demonstration of ability to function in emergency situations for voice and broadband services:

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“Sandhill”) hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2)¹ and Section 103-646 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. Sandhill’s network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2) and Section 103-646 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. Sandhill can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow Sandhill to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require. In addition, Sandhill has redundancy for connectivity purposes *via* additional routes and electronic equipment for voice and broadband services.

Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. Sandhill has battery backup at all office locations and in its electronic equipment sites. Length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. Generators are installed at all Central Office locations. They will continue to run as long as Sandhill has access to fuel.

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to “demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.”

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date

1/1/2017

<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

<703>

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240546
<015>	Study Area Name	SANDHILL TEL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jeanne Oliver
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8436586845 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jeanne.oliver@shtc.net

[illegible]



Lifeline is a federal program that offers assistance with residential phone or broadband service for customers who qualify. Customers must meet specific, pre-determined guidelines set by the federal government. The program is non-transferable. Only one Lifeline service is available per household. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses.

Eligibility is based on receiving one of these services:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Section 8 Housing Assistance
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
- Consumers can also qualify based on income if household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.



BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**3.7 LIFELINE PROGRAM****3.7.1 General**

- A. Lifeline Assistance is a non-transferable residential retail service offering for which qualifying low-income subscribers pay reduced charges, as provided for below. Lifeline Assistance enables eligible subscribers to pay reduced charges on supported services as defined in 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101 which meet the minimum standards as defined in 47 C.F.R. Section 54.408. (C)
- B. The Lifeline credit available to an eligible customer in South Carolina is equal to the total of federal support as established by the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. Section 54.403) and state support as established by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for local service, which includes the access line, the Subscriber Line Charge and local usage. (C)
- C. The Company shall apply the baseline payments received by the administrator of the federal Lifeline Assistance program to waive the qualifying customer's federal End-User Common Line Charge associated with the voice service. The Company shall apply any additional federal support amount to the qualifying customer's basic local exchange service rate. (D)
- D. Qualifying customers must subscribe to a generally available residential service plan or package that is made generally available in the Company's service area. (C)
- E. Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers shall first be applied to the supported service charges and then to any outstanding charges for additional services. (C)
- F. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a customer who is otherwise eligible for the Lifeline Program from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications services.
- G. The Lifeline Program rate reduction does not apply to Service Connection Charges.
- H. The Lifeline Program rate will not be available on a retroactive basis.

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.7 **LIFELINE PROGRAM** (Cont'd)

3.7.2 **Eligibility and Certification Requirements**

A. Subscribers are eligible for Lifeline Assistance if:

1. The subscriber's household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or
2. The subscriber, or one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household, receives benefits from at least one of the following qualifying programs:

Medicaid;

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps;

Supplemental Security Income (SSI);

Federal Public Housing Assistance;

(D)

(D)

(D)

Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs.

(N)

3. Other eligibility requirements may be established by the Federal Communications Commission.

(C)

(C)

B. Until the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier has been implemented in South Carolina, each subscriber to Lifeline Assistance must provide documentation of income-based or program-based eligibility and certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that s/he receives benefits under a program outlined in paragraph A. above, and must on that same document, agree to notify the Company if s/he ceases to participate in the program(s) or to meet income eligibility requirements. The certification form shall conform to the requirements described herein, and shall be made available upon request to any subscriber. The Company shall retain all such subscriber certifications in order to furnish proof of subscriber eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators.

(N)

(C)

C. A subscriber may elect at the time of subscription to Lifeline Assistance to receive toll limitation as part of Lifeline Assistance. "Toll limitation" is a service that allows a subscriber to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the subscriber's residence.

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.7 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

(N)

3.7.2 Eligibility Requirements (Cont'd)

C. (Cont'd)

(2) Applicants who demonstrate poverty level income either:

- (a) As determined by the individual's Federal income tax return. Individuals choosing this option are required to obtain and deliver or mail to the Cooperative a photocopy of their most recent U.S. Individual Tax Return (Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) that was submitted to the Internal Revenue Service. The Cooperative will look at the number of exemptions reported to determine the size of the family unit and the dollar amount reported on the adjusted gross income line. These figures will then be compared to current federal poverty income level guideline tables, as published in the Federal Register, to determine if the applicant meets the income criteria.
- (b) Fixed income, retired or other subscribers not required to file an individual tax return (Form 1040, Form 1040A or 1040EZ) should write a letter to the Cooperative with a written statement to that effect and a statement that they qualify for the Lifeline Program. The Cooperative may choose to verify this information with a State or Federal agency before determining the applicant's eligibility.

(N)

APPROVED
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FEB 1996

Charles W. Smith
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**3.7 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)****3.7.3 Restrictions**

- A. Only one Lifeline Assistance credit is available per household.

3.7.4 Recertification

- A. Customers must recertify on an annual basis that they continue to qualify for the discounted service.

3.7.5 Credit and Collection

- A. Credit References

The credit verification procedures used for all applicants who apply for service with the Cooperative will also be used for applicants who apply for service under the Lifeline Program.

- B. Deposits

The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate voice- (C)
only Lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber
voluntarily elects toll blocking from the Company, where available or if
the qualifying low-income subscriber elects a calling plan that does not
distinguish between toll and non-toll calls in its pricing. If toll blocking is
unavailable, then the Company may charge a service deposit.

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.1 GENERAL

A. Description and Area of Operations

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Cooperative) is a public utility providing telecommunications service in the areas certificated to the Cooperative by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

Headquarters for the Cooperative are located at P.O. Box 519, 122 S. Main Street, Jefferson, South Carolina 29718. Cooperative representatives may be contacted at (803) 658-3434.

The Cooperative is largely financed by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and provides one-party service throughout its service area according to an area coverage design approved by the RUS.

Areas of Operation

<u>Exchange</u>	<u>NPA-NXX</u>	<u>County</u>	
McBee	335	Chesterfield	
Jefferson	658	Chesterfield	
Ruby	634	Chesterfield	
Chesterfield	623, 622	Chesterfield	(T)
Pageland	672, 675	Chesterfield	(T)
Patrick	498	Chesterfield	
Bethune	334	Kershaw	

B. Exchange service areas are identified on maps filed at the end of this Section.

Map for McBee	Separate page
Map for Jefferson	Separate page
Map for Ruby	Separate page
Map for Chestefield	Separate page
Map for Pageland	Separate page
Map for Patrick	Separate page
Map for Bethune	Separate page

C. The rates for service and equipment and not specifically shown in this section are presented in other sections of this Tariff.

APPROV. FOR FILING
 THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
 OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AUG 1 2000

David E. Walsh
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2 MONTHLY EXCHANGE RATES

A. Monthly exchange rates are authorized by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina and are shown as follows:

3.2.1 Flat Rate Service

Chesterfield Exchange*

		Tariff Code	
Residence:			
1 party access charge	\$10.80	R7	(R)
(.00 Cheraw EAS)	.00		
	10.80		
Business:			
1 party access charge	\$ 21.60	C1	
(.00 Cheraw EAS)	.00		
	21.60		
Public Telephone Access Service	21.60	CN	
(.00 Cheraw EAS)	.00		
	21.60		
Key system lines	21.60	KT	
(.00 Cheraw EAS)	.00		
	21.60		
PBX lines	21.60	P1	(R)
(.00 Cheraw EAS)	.00		
	21.60		

Jefferson Exchange*

Residence:			
1 party access charge	\$ 10.80	R1	
Business:			
1 party access charge	\$ 21.60	B1	
Public Telephone Access Service	21.60	CM	
Key system lines	21.60	KK	
PBX lines	21.60	PA	

* Only one party service offered for business or residence.

Issued: March 8, 2007
BY: President

Effective: Upon Approval of
the Commission

APPROVED FOR FILING
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
APR 04 2007

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**3.2 MONTHLY EXCHANGE RATES (Cont'd)****3.2.1 Flat Rate Service (Cont'd)****McBee Exchange***Tariff
Code

Residence:

1 party access charge
(.00 Hrtv. EAS)

\$ 10.80

R2

(R)

.00

10.80

Business:

1 party access charge
(.00 Hrtv.EAS)

\$ 21.60

B2

.00

21.60

Public Telephone Access Service
(.00 Hrtv. EAS)

21.60

CF

.00

21.60

Key system lines
(.00 Hrtv.EAS)

21.60

KL

.00

21.60

PBX lines
(.00 Hrtv.EAS)

21.60

P6

(R)

.00

21.60

* Only one party service offered for business or residence.

APPROVED FOR FILING
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

APR 04 2007

Issued: March 8, 2007
BY: PresidentEffective: Upon Approval of
the Commission

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2 MONTHLY EXCHANGE RATES (Cont'd)

3.2.1 Flat Rate Service (Cont'd)

Tariff
CodeBethune Exchange*

Residence:

1 party access charge
(.00 Camden EAS)

\$ 10.80

R4

(R)

.00

10.80

Business:

1 party access charge
(.00 Camden EAS)

\$ 21.60

B5

.00

21.60

Public Telephone Access Service
(.00 Camden EAS)

21.60

CE

.00

21.60

Key system lines
(.00 Camden EAS)

21.60

KF

.00

21.60

PBX lines
(.00 Camden EAS)

21.60

PH

(R)

.00

21.60

* Only one party service offered for business or residence.

APPROVED FOR FILING
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

APR 04 2007

Issued: March 8, 2007
BY: PresidentEffective: Upon Approval of
the Commission

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2 MONTHLY EXCHANGE RATES (Cont'd)

3.2.1 Flat Rate Service (Cont'd)

Tariff
Code

Pageland Exchange*

Residence:

1 party access charge \$ 10.80 R1

Business:

1 party access charge \$ 21.60 B1

Public Telephone Access Service 21.60 CM

Key system lines 21.60 KK

PBX lines 21.60 PA

Patrick Exchange*

Residence:

1 party access charge \$ 10.80 R3 (R)
 (.00 Cheraw EAS; .00 Hrtv. EAS) .00
 10.80

Business:

1 party access charge \$ 21.60 B3
 (.00 Cheraw EAS; .00 Hrtv.EAS) .00
 21.60

Public Telephone Access Service 21.60 CQ
 (.00 Cheraw EAS; .00 Hrtv EAS) .00
 21.60

Key system lines 21.60 KI
 (.00 Cheraw EAS; .00 Hrtv EAS) .00
 21.60

PBX lines 21.60 (R)
 (.00 Cheraw EAS; .00 Hrtv EAS) .00
 21.60

Ruby Exchange*

Residence:

1 party access charge \$ 10.80 R1

Business:

1 party access charge \$ 21.60 B1

Public Telephone Access Service 21.60 CM

Key system lines 21.60 KK

PBX lines 21.60 PA

* Only one party service offered for business or residence.

APPROVED FOR FILING
 THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
 OF SOUTH CAROLINA

APR 04 2007

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2.2 LOCAL EXCEPTIONS

(T)

50% discount on one (1) party residence access and EAS charges, as set forth in Section 3.2.1, for one (1) line only, one (1) location only.

A. Churches:

<u>Exchanges</u>	<u>Tariff Code</u>
McBee	C6
Patrick	C7
Jefferson	C8
Pageland	C8
Bethune	C5
Ruby	C8
Chesterfield	DH

B. Temporary suspension of service.

<u>Exchanges</u>	<u>Tariff Code</u>
McBee	V6
Patrick	V7
Jefferson	V5
Pageland	V5
Bethune	VY
Ruby	V5
Chesterfield	V8

<u>Exchanges</u>	<u>Tariff Code</u>
McBee	V2
Patrick	V3
Jefferson	V1
Pageland	V1
Bethune	VZ
Ruby	V1
Chesterfield	V4

C. Chesterfield reduced rate.

<u>Exchange</u>	<u>Tariff Code</u>
Chesterfield	CB

(T)

APPROVES
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FEB 16 1996

BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

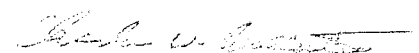
3.2.3 LOCAL CALLING AREAS

The rates specified in Section 3.2.1 entitle customers to access all stations bearing the central office designations of additional exchanges as shown below. The local calling area of the exchanges in the left hand column also includes the exchanges listed in the right hand column.

<u>Exchanges</u>	<u>Additional Exchanges</u>
Jefferson	Bethune, Chesterfield, McBee, Pageland, Patrick, Ruby
McBee	Bethune, Chesterfield, Hartsville, Jefferson, Pageland, Patrick, Ruby
Ruby	Bethune, Chesterfield, Jefferson, McBee, Pageland, Patrick
Chesterfield	Bethune, Cheraw, Jefferson, McBee, Pageland, Patrick, Ruby
Bethune	Chesterfield, Jefferson, McBee, Pageland, Patrick, Ruby, Camden
Pageland	Bethune, Chesterfield, Jefferson, McBee, Patrick, Ruby
Patrick	Bethune, Cheraw, Chesterfield, Hartsville, Jefferson, McBee, Pageland, Ruby

APPROVES
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FEB 16 1996


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

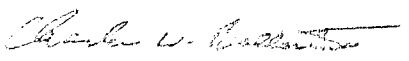
BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

3.2.4 EXCHANGE MILEAGE CHARGES

- A. No exchange mileage shall apply within the Exchange Service area.
- B. No zone charges shall apply within the Exchange Service area.

APPROVED
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FEB 16 1996


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc. hereby certifies that throughout 2016, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time. If a request for broadband service at actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream is unreasonable, the Company offers broadband service at the highest available speed.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3026

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY